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The University of Michigan Periodical Reading Room

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The Library will observe **holiday hours** on Memorial Day on Monday, May 31. All reading rooms and study facilities, except the Congressional Reading Room, will be closed; the Congressional Reading Room will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library's exhibition halls will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular Saturday and Sunday service will be maintained on May 29 and 30.

APPEARANCE BY BURGESS MEREDITH MARKS WHITTALL FUND ANNIVERSARY

Basler Lecture Pays Tribute to Donor

It was a nostalgic evening as the memory of Gertrude Clarke Whittall presided over a lecture and reading on May 3 marking the 25th anniversary of the literary fund she established in 1951.

Roy P. Basler, honorary consultant in American Studies, delivered a lecture on the contributions and tribulations of bringing hundreds of actors, poets, novelists, and lecturers to the Library under the stern gaze of the woman who sponsored them. Actor Burgess Meredith, who inaugurated the Whittall series at its inception, read a selection of poems, including a final one of his own.

Judging from the text of Mr. Basler's lecture, [see

(Continued on next page)

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED

In a special announcement on Monday, May 10, Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin told the staff that he had made organizational changes in the Office of The Librarian "in a continuing effort to strengthen the management of the Library of Congress." The Librarian emphasized that these personnel changes, like those of February 20, do not "foreclose or anticipate" any recommendations expected from his Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning. Dr. Boorstin announced the following new positions and assignments:

(1) Donald C. Curran, special assistant for management, was appointed The Assistant Librarian of Congress. He will share in the general management of the Library of Congress with The Librarian and The Deputy Librarian of Congress, with special emphasis on program review and analysis, budget planning and execution, and organization of the Library.

(2) Elizabeth Hamer Kegan, Assistant Librarian of Congress, was appointed Assistant Librarian of Congress (American and Library Studies). She will direct the activities of the American Revolution Bicentennial Office, and will provide coordination and support from the Office of The Librarian to the American Folklife Center, the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise, and the National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works (CONTU). In addition Mrs. Kegan will assist The Librarian in his duties as

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Secretary of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, as well as develop, plan, and implement various intellectual and cultural programs associated with American and library studies.

(3) James Parton was appointed Assistant Librarian of Congress (Public Education); he will direct the activities of the Exhibits Office, the Information and Media Services Office (formerly the Information Office), the Publications Office, and the Interpretive Projects Officer. Mr. Parton, chairman of the National Advertising Review Board, brings to the Library broad experience in reporting, editing, publishing, and consulting. A founder of the American Heritage Publishing Co., he is also a former chief executive officer of the Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corp. Assuming his Library of Congress post in July, he will give, said Dr. Boorstin, "new emphasis and direction to the Library's communications and public education services through its publishing, media, and exhibits programs."

(4) Robert W. Hutchison, special assistant for personnel management, was appointed director of the Management Policy Office. This change in title is intended to reflect more accurately his responsibilities for the Offices of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, Women's Program Coordinator, Labor Management Relations and Appeals, Personnel Security, and Position Classification Appeals.

(5) The Legislative Liaison Office, headed by Adoreen M. McCormick, will report to The Librarian of Congress.

The changes were effective May 10. Until the arrival of Mr. Parton in July, the public education activities of the Library will be directed by The Librarian of Congress.

APPEARANCE BY BURGESS MEREDITH MARKS WHITTALL FUND ANNIVERSARY

Basler Lecture Pays Tribute to Donor

(Continued from front page)

Appendix], the anniversary activities went much more smoothly than the event 25 years ago which they commemorated. Mr. Basler told the audience of a controversy which arose behind the scenes at the first reading.

It seems that Mrs. Whittall was not consulted about the program or poems to be presented, as she had asked to be in establishing the fund. The consultant in poetry at the time, Conrad Aiken, thought it sufficient to take counsel with the Fellows in American Letters, a group established by former Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish.

But Mrs. Whittall had her favorites, particularly "Lancelot" by Edwin Arlington Robinson. She had given the library of number of Robinson manuscripts, and hoped for a selection from them. This ran counter to Mr. Aiken's appraisal, who commented that "it didn't fit in with what he had prepared to say, and wasn't, anyway, a very good poem."

Burgess Meredith, who eventually read what Mr. Aiken had selected, was asked in an interview what he thought about the controversy at the time.

"I tried to stay above the fray as much as I could because it didn't make much difference to me as long as they were worthy poems. But it was really a friendly thing, and it was just a question as to whether the consultant in poetry should pick the poems, or whether the sponsor should."

Mr. Meredith was asked about his first appearance at the Library in 1943, before the Whittall fund was established.

"I was a Captain in Air Force Intelligence during the war," he recalled, "and I had known Mr. MacLeish because I had done his 'Fall of the City' with Orson Welles. He introduced me very flatteringly, I recall, saying he had called me from the military because I was his favorite poetry reader."

In 1952, Mr. Meredith presented a program of readings entitled "The Paradox of Poe," with a commentary by Frederic Wertham.

"Frederic Wertham was a great admirer of Poe,"

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN VISITS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Dr. and Mrs. Franklin enjoy talking to Assistant Secretary of State John Richardson.

Dr. Franklin autographs one of his publications for Hardy Franklin, Martin Luther King Memorial Library.

John Hope Franklin, John Matthews Manly Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Chicago, visited the Library of Congress while in Washington recently to give one of the three lectures sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities as the Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. The guest of honor at a luncheon in the Whittall Pavilion, Mr. Franklin, his family, The Librarian of Congress, and Mrs. Boorstin were joined by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare David Matthews and Mrs. Matthews; Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs John Richardson; and Brooke Hindle, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology. Also present were Robert Goldwin, special consultant to the President; Marvin Sadik, director of the National Portrait Gallery; Hardy Franklin, head of The Martin Luther King Memorial Library; Binford Conley, Howard University librarian; Robert Kingston, deputy director of the National Endowment for the Humanities; William M. Cochrane, staff director to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; and Rayford Logan and Michael Winston, professor emeritus and professor of history, respectively, at Howard University.

Phil Kadis of the Washington Star *talks with guest of honor John Hope Franklin and HEW Secretary David Matthews.*

Mr. Meredith said, "and one of the most widely known psychiatrists in the country at the time. He was very much in the news when he attacked the violence in comic books for children. As it turned out, we were entering an age of violence, and he was a kind of prophet in this respect."

"He was also interested in the analysis of artists. He was fascinated by their motivations and wrote a very famous book on the matricide complex of *Hamlet* which caused a great deal of stir throughout the scholastic world."

Mr. Meredith was asked about his previous appearance in 1962.

"I did part of a program which I had done in college which had been put together for me with the help of Charles Laughton. I read from the Bible, Shakespeare, parts of *Hamlet,* e. e. cummings (a poet I am very fond of), James Thurber, and excerpts from *Ulysses in Nighttown,* which I had directed with Zero Mostel, and interestingly enough, we revived last year. After its first production, years ago, in lower Manhattan, and then in London, we won the international prize at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre in France."

How did he begin his stage career?

"I began my career in the theatre in 1930 with a production with Eva Le Gallienne's Student Repertory Group in *Romeo and Juliet.* From there I was called for my first appearance on Broadway in a play called *Little Ol' Boy,* for which I received the Critics Award.

"I then did a series of seven plays with the Katharine Cornell/Guthrie McClintic production organization. This included a revival of *Barretts of Wimpole Street* and a play with my first co-starring role, *Flowers of the Forest.*

"Then Maxwell Anderson, the leading playwright of the era, wrote three plays for me. The first was *Winterset,* the second *High Tor,* and the third *The Star Wagon.* They each ran a year and a half, leading up to 1940. *Winterset* was made into a movie, and that was my first movie. From then on, I began to alternate, except for the interruption of the war, between the stage and motion pictures."

Mr. Meredith's most recent film, *Day of the Locust,* won him a nomination for an Academy Award. Before his appearance at the Library of Congress, he had just completed three other unreleased new films called "Rocky," "The Poker Player," and "Burnt Offering." Currently, Mr. Meredith has toured colleges with readings from Carlos Castaneda, and he plans a movie directed by Michael Winter.

NCLIS NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED

President Ford has submitted to the Senate the names of the following persons to be members of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

For the remainder of the term expiring July 19, 1977, the name of Ralph A. Renick of Florida has been submitted to fill the term of Harold C. Crotty, who resigned.

For terms expiring July 19, 1980, the President nominated Frederick H. Burkhardt of Vermont for reappointment, Marian Pollensky Leith of North Carolina to replace W. O. Baker, and Mildred E. Younger of California to replace Leslie W. Dunlap, both of whose terms have expired.

STAFF NEWS

DEATH OF STAFF MEMBER

Herbert R. Williams, staff member in the Preliminary Cataloging Section of the Descriptive Cataloging Division, died on April 23.

Mr. Williams was born in Durham, N.C., where he was educated in the public schools. He continued his formal education at Howard University, Washington, D.C., majoring in architectural drafting and design.

He served with the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1963.

Mr. Williams joined the Library staff in 1957 as a card drawer in the former Card Division, and advanced through progressively more responsible positions until he was transferred to the position of senior preliminary cataloger in the Preliminary Cataloging Section of the Descriptive Cataloging Division in June of 1974.

AWARDS

Francis J. Thomas of the Processing Section, Office of the Law Librarian, was presented a 20-year Federal Service Award pin on April 20 by the head of the section, Rita A. Harrison.

Mr. Thomas joined the Library in 1956 as a Reader Service Assistant in the Division for the Blind. In 1959, he transferred to the Law Library as deck attendant messenger and in 1971 was promoted to his present position as binding assistant.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Michael R. Pew has been named executive officer of the Copyright Office, effective March 29. Previously a program analyst in the Copyright Office,

Mr. Pew will now be in charge of the Administrative Office and will be responsible for the majority of daily operating activities.

His most important duties will include exercising final responsibility for coordination and review of all personnel matters, including initial appointments, promotions (except those subject to final review by the Register of Copyrights or the Deputy Register), requests for administrative leave, details, and training assignments.

As the principal liaison officer with other departments in the Library, Mr. Pew will serve as the Copyright Office's budget officer and will oversee with Library management the planning and final preparation of the Copyright Office budget. In this capacity, he will be responsible for decisions involving the hiring of temporary personnel and regulating the use of overtime.

In September 1973, Mr. Pew was assigned to the Copyright Office as senior systems analyst of the Library's Information Systems Office and was transferred the following September to the Copyright Office as a program analyst. His tour of duty at the Copyright Office has involved him in all aspects of its operations, including in-process control, cataloging, planning for the copyright revision bill, and the reorganization of existing units within the office.

Appointments: Patricia A. Braun, assistant secretary, GS-5, G&M, 1793; Marietta L. Chasten, reference clerk, GS-3, CRS E 1821; Stephanie L. Forbes, analyst, life sciences, GS-9, CRS SPR, 1797; Minerva W. Horsley, research assistant, GS-5, FRD, 1792; George G. Lanier, supervisor, editorial composing unit, GS-8, Cat Publ, 1360 and 1721; Robert P. Spero, clerk-typist, GS-4, Cop Serv, 1682; Ethel Tillman, clerk-typist, GS-3, Cat Publ, OP 8-500.

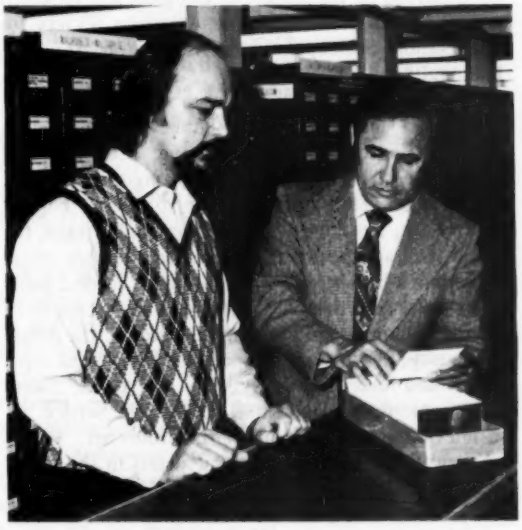
Reappointment: Ralph B. Kirscher, analyst, American national government, GS-7, CRS G, 1769.

Promotions: Philip A. Culver, Ser, to control clerk, GS-5, ISO, 1777; Wellington G. Datcher, Ref, to head, building services, WS-5, DBPH, 1716; J. Brian Durkin, S&R, to library technician, GS-4, LL O, 1689; Ruth M. Ellis, Ser Rec, to library technician, GS-6, E&G, 1694; Cynthia Kellogg, Subj Cat, to secretary, network services section, GS-5, DBPH, 1779; James V. Kennedy, to library technician, GS-5, Cop Serv, 1767; Richard Korman, Ser Rec, to specialist in government document and serial bibliography, GS-12, Ser, 1734; Dolores M. Martin, to assistant editor, Handbook of Latin American Studies, GS-12, LAPS, 1805; Elizabeth J. Murgolo, Cat Publ, to assistant catalog editor, GT-9, NUCPP, 1690; Frank J. Vitalos, to head, book section, GS-14, Cop Exam, 1709.

The Processing Department has selected Sarah Irvine and Francisco Ramos for two positions in the TAP Program.

Sarah Irvine (right) was appointed a cataloger in English Language Section III of the Descriptive Cataloging Division. Previously a processing assistant in the Slavic Section of the Shared Cataloging Division, she is pictured above with Mary Hooper, the head of her new section.

Francisco Ramos from the Preliminary Cataloging Section, Descriptive Cataloging Division, has been named a cataloger in the Italian-Spanish Section of the Shared Cataloging Division. He is pictured below (left) with Manuel Palau, assistant section head of the Italian-Spanish Section.



Transfer: Kenneth A. Fones, CRS L, to searcher filer, GS-5, Cat Publ, 1589.

Resignations: Nancy J. Haldeman, Subj Cat; Kurt D. Krueger, CRS D; Beverly A. Ross, CRS D; Adelia O. Heller, Cop Cat; Bruce E. Langdon, CRS D; Michael J. Boland, S&R; Andrew C. Mayer, CRS F; Patricia S. Busselle, DBPH; Michael J. Costin, Ov Op; Kenneth O. Pittman, MARC Develop; William T. Owens Smith, DBPH.

Correction: In the promotions section of this column on April 23, Enes L. Pauline's name was inverted. In the appointments section on April 30, Sameha M. Kotb's name was misspelled; May A. Hewer's name was incorrectly given in the resignations section of the same date. The editors regret the errors.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Elemer Bako, Finno-Ugrian area specialist in the Slavic and Central European Division, is the author of an illustrated essay entitled "Louis Kossuth, 1802-1894" about the events of the journey of the celebrated Hungarian patriot to the United States in 1851-1852. The article appeared in *Abroad in America: Visitors to the New Nation, 1776-1914,* a companion publication to the third Bicentennial exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery which opened April 8.

Norman Beckman, acting director of the Congressional Research Service, participated in a "talk-in" with Alton Frye, trustee of The Institute for Congress, on the subject of Congress and Research at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science held in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, April 13.

Mr. Beckman also chaired two special sessions at the American Society for Public Administration National Conference in Washington, D.C., on April 20. In the first, a panel of key congressional staff members delivered legislative case studies on Federal paper work, freedom of information and privacy, the Hatch Act, and post-Watergate reform as they affect the public administration profession. A second panel on national growth policy examined key elements of emerging national growth policy including: the future of the city, urban-rural balance, state and local capability, and overall strategy. On this panel, **Susan Abbasi** of the Congressional Research Service reported on the state of the urban environment.

Karen F. Beall, curator of fine prints in the Prints and Photographs Division, was a juror selecting prints by American artists for the Washington Print Club on April 28. The chosen prints, which reflect the interests of Washington collectors, will be exhibited beginning September 24 at the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution.

Elisabeth W. Betz, picture cataloging specialist, and **Beverly W. Brannan,** cataloger of photographic collections, of the Prints and Photographs Division, delivered a joint paper at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference meeting at Winterthur, Del., on March 26. They discussed organization and cataloging of still pictures in the Library of Congress.

Paul T. Heffron, assistant chief of the Manuscript Division, was the recipient of a Bicentennial Presidential Award from Boston College in a ceremony held on April 21. During the Bicentennial year, the university, through its various departments and divisions, is conferring 200 such awards in recognition of distinguished service by its graduates and others connected with the institution.

William J. Welsh, The Deputy Librarian of Congress, was the after-dinner speaker on April 30 at the annual meeting of the Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians. Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., served as host for the two-day meeting. Participants toured the newly opened Alexander M. Bracken Library on the campus. The annual meeting focused on latest developments in the technical services field and what may be expected in the next decade. In speaking on "The Library of Congress and its National Leadership Role," Mr. Welsh highlighted some of the events taking place which affect bibliographic and other operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The U.S. **Department of Agriculture Graduate School** will hold registration for its summer classes between Tuesday, June 8, and Saturday, June 12, in Room 1339 of the South Agriculture Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W.; registration will be held at the Library of Congress in the ground floor lobby of the Thomas Jefferson Building on Wednesday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mail registration for U.S.D.A. courses will end on May 22. Staff members interested in courses may call the Graduate School for the summer catalog (tel. 447-4419) or contact the Library's Training Office (ext. 6348).

The **American Red Cross Bloodmobile Unit** will visit the Library on Wednesday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the Whittall Pavilion. Staff members wishing to donate blood should register with key-workers in their respective divisions. Donors from the Navy Yard, Taylor Street, and Massachusetts Avenue

Annexes are requested to use the regular shuttle bus service to the Library of Congress Building.

In accordance with LCR 2015-17.4, all blood donors may be granted a maximum of four hours excused absence, which includes the actual time spent giving blood and a rest and recuperative period immediately following. The time of donation must be approved by the supervisor and a Form 13-73a (Blood Donation Verification) must be submitted to the supervisor following donation.

Arrangements for blood replacement for Library personnel and their immediate families may be made by calling Candy Barksdale, Health Services Office, ext. 6053.

Cynthia Strother, a review-reviser in the Book Section of the Cataloging Division, Copyright Office, and **James W. Campbell** were married on April 17 in the Howard University Chapel. Mr. Campbell is employed in private industry. The couple will reside in Washington, D.C.

The **MARC Editorial Division** has moved to the Navy Yard and is now located in Room 406 of Building 159. The division's phone numbers are unchanged; its extensions are 5261 and 5262.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PUBLICATIONS

Accessions List: Middle East. ISSN 0041-7769. Vol. 13. No. 11 and 12. November and December, 1975. (pp. 319-371) Continuing subscriptions free to libraries upon request to the Acting Field Director, Library of Congress Office, American Embassy, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Library of Congress Catalogs: Chinese Cooperative Catalog. ISSN 0095-1072. March 1976. (v, 273 p.) For sale by the Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20541 for the year's subscription which consists of 12 monthly issues and an annual cumulation at $350.

Library of Congress Catalogs: Films and Other Materials for Projection. ISSN 0091-3294. January-March 1976. (viii, 159 p.) For sale by the Cataloging Distribution Service on a subscription basis only, at $60 a year. Subscribers to the *National Union Catalog* will automatically receive *Films and Other Materials for Projection.*

Library of Congress Name Headings with References. ISSN 0093-0563. January-March 1976. (157 p.) For sale by the Cataloging Distribution Service for $62.50 for three quarterly issues and an annual cumulation.

Monographic Series. ISSN 0093-0571. 1974 (1976). Vol. 2: Crop-Iz (747 p.) For sale by the Cataloging Distribution Service for $100 for three quarterly issues and an annual cumulation.

New Serial Titles: A Union List of Serials Commencing Publication After December 31, 1949. ISSN 0028-6680. January-March 1976. (xiii, 134 p.) April 1976. (iv, 59 p.) For sale by the Cataloging Distribution Service for $170 for the year's subscription which consists of eight monthly and four quarterly issues, and an annual volume which cumulates one to five years.

New Serial Titles—Classed Subject Arrangement. ISSN 0028-6699. April 1976. (56 p.) Prepared under the sponsorship of the Joint Committee on the Union List of Serials and published monthly by the Cataloging Distribution Service for $35 a year.

NRC Switchboard: Selected Information Resources on Industrial Safety and Occupational Health. (SL 76-1). March 1976. (22 p.) Compiled by the Science and Technology Division's National Referral Center, this is a listing of 72 organizations which will answer questions or provide information relating to industrial safety or occupational health. The entries, each of which gives the name, address, and telephone number of the organization and a brief description of its information capabilities and services, are arranged under the following headings: General Resources, Occupational Health, Mining, Fire and Explosives, Hazardous Materials, Construction, Toxicology-Radiation, Transportation, and Other Occupations. *NRC Switchboard* is a new name for this informal series of compilations, which have been issued on an occasional basis by the NRC since early 1971. Free on request from the National Referral Center, Library of Congress, Science and Technology Division, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Library of Congress Regulations: No. 1710-15 (April 13) restated the Library's policy on financing attendance at meetings and regular travel; No. 213-3 (April 14) changed the name of the Cataloging Distribution Service and updated its functions; No. 2013-5 (April 28), pages 4 and 5 reflect the delegation to the director of personnel final approval authority for quality increases.

Special Announcements: No. 748 (April 19) invited staff to attend a film on cigarette smoking; No. 749 (April 26) announced that the Affirmative Action Hearings will be held on May 12; No. 750 (April 28) concerned the Training,

Appraisal, and Promotion Program (TAP), showing the number of TAP positions distributed to each department.

NEWS IN THE LIBRARY WORLD

ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Librarian of Canada, Guy Sylvestre, has announced that the MARC Records Distribution Service of the National Library of Canada is offering the Canadian library community three options, and pricing structures, to extend the Canadian MARC Tape Distribution Service that has been available since January 1975. The three options offered by the service are to receive (1) CAN/MARC (CANadian/MARC tapes), (2) all MARC tapes received by the National Library and converted to CAN/MARC, and (3) selected records (on tapes and unit cards); the first two options are being offered on a weekly basis. The CAN/MARC tapes are $250 per year for subscribers in Canada and $300 for subscribers outside Canada. The second option will initially consist of CAN/MARC and Library of Congress MARC records for monographs in CAN/MARC format on one tape for $1,700 per year; other MARC tapes will be added to this tape as soon as possible. The third option, the selected record service, will be run on demand, up to daily, as the number of subscribers increases; the cost of the selected service is $10 per submission and four cents per hit for tape output. A $6 charge will be levied if the tape must be provided by the National Library. Card output will cost $10 per submission and nine cents per hit. More information on the details of this service are available from the Canadian MARC Office, Research and Planning Branch, National Library of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A ON4.

COMING EVENT

The Folger Shakespeare Library will hold a conference on Three British Revolutions: 1640, 1688, 1776 on May 21-22 under the sponsorship of the Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Nine distinguished historians from both sides of the Atlantic will participate in a program designed to encourage speculative and new interpretations of the British origins of the American Revolution. The two-day conference will be open to all interested participants; a registration fee of $7.50 ($10 at the door) includes a buffet luncheon in the Folger Library's Great Hall. Because of space limitations, places at the conference cannot be guaranteed without advance registrations; inquiries for further information should be directed to Brenda Szittya, Folger Institute Conference Coordinator, Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol St., Washington, D.C. 20003, tel. (202) 546-8877.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The International Federation of Documentation (FID) has published the **Cumulated UDC Supplement 1965-1975,** in five volumes, for 250 Dutch guilders. Orders should be placed with FID, 7 Hofweg, The Hague, Netherlands.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has prepared a checklist of over 1,700 children's books and periodicals from the period 1837-1876. The list will be of value to historians, librarians, educators, and other researchers with an interest in literature and culture in the 19th century. A limited number of print copies of the checklist are available to libraries; as long as the supply lasts, single copies may be obtained by sending $1 in stamps (to cover mailing costs) to the Office of Work with Children, The Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. The checklist is also available in positive 35mm microfilm for $9, including cost of the film and mailing.

A decision on which of the major classification schemes is best suited for the **British Library** has been brought nearer by a report commissioned by the Research and Development Department. It is the final report of the working group established partly to examine the various classification and indexing systems currently in use in the compoent parts of the British Library. The report examines the suitability of the major classification schemes for use within the British Library. PRECIS and the British Museum Subject Index, their respective costs, ease of use, and potential for future development are also considered. This first publication in the series of *British Library Research and Development Reports* is available from the Publications Section, British Library, Lending Division, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7BQ, England; the price is $4 including postage.

APPENDIX

LECTURE BY ROY P. BASLER, HONORARY CONSULTANT IN AMERICAN STUDIES, MAY 3, FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GERTRUDE CLARKE WHITTALL FUND

Aunt Gertrude, are you there? Turn up your earphones, for I want you hear, and then later criticize what I will say! I know you will!

For all of you in the audience who attended Whittall programs prior to 1965, the year of her death at age 97, Gertrude Clarke Whittall was the best known person at the Library of Congress, with, perhaps, the exception of the Librarian himself, whom she antedated in the service of the Library, as a patron, by more than twenty years. Who can forget the little old figure (in her last years) shuffling down the corridor, greeted by everyone, to take her seat in No. 101 Row S? This seat had been especially equipped with a plug-in for her earphones to amplify either the music or the poetry she so dearly loved, for she was as deaf as she was neat, and she was as sharp as Jenny Wren. Woe betide any bigger bird, poet, librarian or whatever, who assumed he or she knew more about what should be good music or good poetry than she did! And, to use popular slang, "she put her money where her mouth was."

Her gifts to the Library began with the famed collection of Stradivari instruments, still played upon, and displayed in the adjacent Whittall Pavilion, itself a gift which bears her name. With those instruments came an endowment for chamber music performances which continue. She gave important music manuscripts to the Music Division. She purchased also, under the tutelage of the first Consultant in Poetry, Joseph Auslander, notable literary manuscripts, especially her favorites, Edwin Arlington Robinson and A.E. Housman, and presented them to the Library's collections. It was rumored that Auslander encouraged these literary gleanings with an occasional sonnet in her honor.

But with Auslander's departure from the Library in 1944, and the inauguration of a new era under Librarian Archibald MacLeish, her literary benefactions began to diminish. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Meyer had given a small sum of money at Librarian MacLeish's suggestion to sponsor literary programs in the fiscal year 1941, and overflow audiences came to hear Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, Stephen Vincent Benét, and Robinson Jeffers, as well as later lectures by Thomas Mann and T. S. Eliot.

All of these literary events, although arranged by Librarian MacLeish, were under the administrative supervision of the Music Division, rich in years of experience managing performances in the Coolidge Auditorium. Consultants in Poetry seem to have had little or no part in such arrangements, for the Consultant, beginning with MacLeish's first appointment of Allen Tate, were actually what the title implied, merely consultants to Librarian MacLeish, and performed only such literary services as he required.

By 1950 poetry as a public performance had fallen into desuetude at the Library. In a letter dated November 27, 1950, Mrs. Whittall wrote MacLeish's successor as Librarian, Luther H. Evans, that she wished to establish a poetry fund in the Library of Congress, "the income from which is to be expended by the Librarian of Congress for the development of the appreciation of poetry in this country. Among the activities for which these funds may be used are expenses connected with lectures on poetry, public poetry readings; the service and upkeep of the Poet's Corner [i.e., the present Poetry Room]; the publication of bibliographies and other scholarly works designed to encourage the creation and appreciation of poetry, etc. These are to be regarded as suggestions but not limitations, and although I desire during my lifetime to be consulted on the choice of activities resulting from these gifts, I do not wish to impose any special conditions . . . ."

Her offer was unanimously accepted by the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board on the recommendation of the Librarian. At the next meeting of the Library's Fellows in American Letters on February 9-10, 1951, her gift was announced with the suggestion the formal inauguration of the program might be a reading of selections from Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems by an outstanding reader, with commentary by a noted critic. Consultant in Poetry Conrad Aiken had spoken with Professor Cleanth Brooks, of Yale University, who had made a selection of Robinson's poems and was available to appear with a reader if the proposal were adopted.

The Fellows in American Letters had been established by Librarian MacLeish to augment the literary status of the Library and to advise concerning literary activities in general. Hence their advice was sought concerning the use of the Whittall Fund. After

considerable discussion emphasizing the preferability of having poets read their own poems, that primary attention should be given to "American Poetry of the present day," and that "the long range program should be under the direction of the Consultant in Poetry but that administrative detail should be delegated elsewhere," the Fellows volunteered to outline a program which successive consultants could follow. The suggestion was approved, with the further suggestion that in the future perhaps some of the income from the Whittall gift might be applied to fellowships for deserving poets.

At this meeting Mrs. Whittall entertained the Fellows with an elaborate luncheon and attended a reception given for them in the Poetry Room. All was charm and harmony, apparently, except for the possibilities inherent in the situation itself. On May 1, 1951, in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium, the inaugural program of the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry Fund presented a joint reading from the poems of Edwin Arlington Robinson by the well-known stage and screen actor, Burgess Meredith. His reading was followed by a critical commentary from Fellow in American Letters Cleanth Brooks. It was a memorable evening from several points of view, but the audience, save for a few Library officials, including the Consultant in Poetry Conrad Aiken, could not have guessed the storm that it had brewed.

Mrs. Whittall had not been consulted, as her deed of gift had specified she would like to be, about the program proposed or the poems which would be read by Mr. Meredith and commented on by Professor Brooks. Since she had given the library a number of Robinson's manuscripts she hoped that some selection might be included from her gift, perhaps with a notation of the fact in the printed program. Robinson's long narrative "Lancelot," her favorite poem by her favorite poet, was not to be represented even by a selection, and she let her disappointment be known. Thereupon a query was made of Professor Brooks whether he could not include in his commentary, and Mr. Meredith in his reading, at least a brief selection from that poem. Mr. Brooks declined to include such a selection, apparently with the advice of Consultant in Poetry Conrad Aiken, on the grounds that, in Mr. Aiken's words, "it didn't fit in with what he had prepared to say, and wasn't anyway, a very good poem."

It was an impasse absolute, with the Consultant in Poetry adamantly insisting that he alone should be responsible for deciding what Mrs. Whittall's gift should be used for. He wanted the money to be paid for lectures by distinguished critics who would extol appropriate modern poets of genuine, as opposed to spurious, accomplishment. An even better idea, he thought, would be simply to give grants to deserving poets of distinction, whom he and the Fellows would choose. His ideas about how to use her money in achieving her objective, "the development of the appreciation of poetry in this country", was not, however, entirely at variance with hers, since her deed of gift had specified lectures and publication of scholarly works along with "public poetry readings." What was at variance was his unwillingness or inability to consult with her effectively, or to consider her wishes in any case, as her deed of gift had requested.

Consequently, Library officials responsible for administering the fund ceased to consult the Consultant, and the Consultant unburdened himself of his disappointment in a communication to his Fellows in American Letters which concluded as follows:

> It is obviously an anomalous position that future Consultants will inherit; one in which they will be *thought* to be responsible for programs in which, in reality, they have no hand. It is certainly not a prerogative of the Consultant to criticize the overall policies of the Library. Yet this incumbent of the Chair would be less than candid it he concealed his misgivings at seeing the Library, and in the field of public relations, as this is, permitting its policy to be shaped, at least partially, by one whose judgment in poetry is all too lamentably betrayed by the books which she has provided for the Poetry Room. (They are in my opinion a disgrace!)

The Fellows again assembled in their annual meeting the next Spring to discuss literary matters and advise the Librarian of Congress concerning them.

Although this meeting on February 29 and March 1, 1952 had before it a full and potentially fruitful agenda, the future management of the Whittall Poetry Fund received the bulk of attention, with the result that the Fellows adopted the following Resolution.

> The present confusion between the Reference Department and the Consultant in Poetry in the administration of the funds for the poetry programs seems to the Fellows deplorable. It seems to them that the Consultant should have a decisive voice in all such matters, especially when in the public view, he is held responsible. If he can not have a decisive voice in any particular program, it should be clearly announced that the program is being given under other auspices. In any case, there should be consultation between the Library and a committee of the Fellows with the principle in

mind that, if there is to be a Consultant in Poetry, he should be concerned with the administration of any permanent poetry funds.

The idea was proposed that a Committee of the Fellows could wait on Mrs. Whittall and "educate" her to their wish for subsidizing modern poets. This was a fiasco.

Such was the state of affairs when I assumed my position as chief, General Reference and Bibliography Division, in the fall of 1952, with the Poetry Office and the operation of programs under the Whittall Poetry Fund not the least of my assigned responsibilities. Poet William Carlos Williams had not succeeded Conrad Aiken and with neither the advice of a Consultant in Poetry, nor an inkling of the intentions of Librarian Evans in regard to the future of the Fellows in American Letters, the work of the Poetry Office and the arrangement of programs under the Whittall Poetry Fund was carried on under my supervision, chiefly by dint of able staff work on the part of Miss Phyllis Armstrong, the special assistant in poetry, who had demonstrated since 1946 her ability to perform yeoman service under a succession of Consultants, as well as in liaison with the donor of the poetry fund. Administrative responsibility for the activities of the Poetry Office and the programs carried on under the auspices of the Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund continued to be under my direct supervision from 1952 until 1975.

Planning programs under the Whittall Fund, in consultation with the donor, was a perennial challenge, and I fear I should have been unable to manage had it not been for the assistance of Phyllis Armstrong, who bore the brunt of the donor's frequent visits and "consultations." But our combined efforts proved not unfruitful, considering that the increments which Mrs. Whittall added from time to time during the next decade, up to her death in 1965, swelled the total endowment in the fund to more than $900,000.

For one whose love of poetry was first stimulated, as she once confided, by an early girlhood gift of a copy of Bulwer-Lytton's *Lucile,* her taste in poetry was by no means as atrocious as it was purported by Conrad Aiken. She preferred Shakespeare above all and admitted to liking E. A. Robinson and A. E. Housman best among her contemporaries, although Robert Frost held for her a personal charm as well as poetic stature. Of the "younger poets", whom the Fellows in American Letters for the most part had represented, she admitted no liking, but she came to agree eventually that "her programs" should not ignore them. In the course of the ensuing decade, with careful cultivation, "younger" poets appeared more and more frequently under her auspices, as it were. She studied their works beforehand, and in every instance made perceptive observations, not merely on their qualities as poets, but on their frequent deficiencies as readers of their own best pieces. To put it bluntly, good poets are not always good public readers, even of their own best work. To the present, more than half a hundred living poets have been presented to Library of Congress audiences under the auspices of the Whittall Fund, and many of their readings have been broadcast by educational radio stations across the country.

Mrs. Whittall continued, however, to prefer Shakespeare and "classics" of English and American literature when read by professionals of stage and rostrum. Thus many notable performances and readings were brought to the Library by the elite of the stage: e.g., Burgess Meredith, Charles Laughton, Fredric March, Arnold Moss, Claude Rains, Emlyn Williams–for Mrs. Whittall preferred male readers and gave a good argument that their voices were simply better instruments for poetry. Nevertheless she agreed to include Margaret Webster, Dorothy Stickney, and Florence Eldridge, among many others. The heyday of staged readings seems to have passed, but who knows when they may return, as they have more than once, to stimulate audiences of a new generation to the love of poetry, for which Gertrude Clarke Whittall primarily dedicated her gifts?

But there was no question that Mrs. Whittall had her prejudices in regard to literature. One was revealed in startling fashion. A distinguished actor was invited to present his own choice of great literary works and selections one spring near Easter time. His program included the resurrection account in the Gospel according to St. John. When Mrs. Whittall saw this she said, "It is a dirty little old place. I've been there, and I don't want to hear about it anymore. Can't he leave that out and have a fine program?" When this was relayed to the distinguished performer, not as a requirement but as humorous information, he agreed, having an abundantly rich harvest of poetry and prose already at hand.

An instance of her critical views was her comment on Claude Rains' reading of Tennyson's *Enoch Arden* accompanied by the musical score composed for the poem by Richard Strauss. She said, "Good reading of second rate Tennyson set to second-rate Strauss." So it was!

Perhaps more far-reaching in some respects than

poetry readings has been the series of lectures presented and published under the auspices of the Whittall Fund. While in no sense an effort to compete with or duplicate the purpose of such famed series as the Harvard Norton Lectures, the Whittall Lectures have found their place in American letters along with the annual lectures of the incumbent Consultant in Poetry. Thus Mrs. Whittall's interests and those enunciated by the Fellows in American Letters came into close if not exact proximity in the course of time.

Gertrude Clarke Whittall was indomitable to the end, but susceptible to advice if not to flattery. When it became obvious to all of her friends that at age 97 she should consider foregoing some of her lifelong independence, she did not readily take to the suggestion that she needed more frequent attention than any of her friends, either inside or outside the Library, could give her. Although the Masonic nursing home—Juniper Hall in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, a Whittall gift endowed with Whittall money—was *there* it was *not* for her. She did briefly and abruptly make the decision her friends had urged, and spent, I believe, less than 24 hours there in the spring of 1965, only to return to her old haunts at the Shoreham Hotel, independent as ever.

She sat there waiting for a visitor in the lobby, one day in June, watching people pass, many of whom spoke to her. Everyone on the hotel staff knew her, indeed her every whim. When her visitor approached, she waved her hand about her saying, "This is for me."

Not long afterward she slipped, as all of us had feared she would for ten years or longer, fell hard, and broke her hip.

She died at George Washington University Hospital some days later. When visited near the end, she is reported to have whispered "I think it's time to go."

But I like to remember what she said four years earlier at a luncheon marking the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Whittall programs, at which she was presented with an album of letters from the many distinguished poets, novelists, actors, and playwrights who had appeared at the Library under the auspices of the Whittall Fund. In accepting the album she said,

"I have no words to express my appreciation for the kindness of all of you friends over the years. They've gone like a dream—and I only wish I could begin over again—without anything, tomorrow."

May we all join in our appreciation of her gift, which continues to afford pleasure to so many.

Mr. Burgess Meredith, who inaugurated the Whittall series so long ago, is again the man of this hour.

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